

IML Statehouse Briefing



On the ground news and insider information!

May 17, 2012

Just over two weeks remain before the scheduled May 31 adjournment date and legislative activity is beginning to intensify. Even so, both the House and Senate have cancelled session days for this weekend.

The IML Legislative Team focused like a laser on protecting CPPRT revenues during this past week. Considerable resources were allocated toward mobilizing local leaders to engage in this critical fight. Devastating financial diversions have been staved off for now, but communities need to maintain their vigilance against any forthcoming efforts to divert state-collected local government revenues.

Major political fault lines are expected to open next week as the General Assembly begins to move forward with controversial Medicaid cuts and pension reforms. Labor unions are [beginning to mobilize](#) against legislation that would reduce pension benefit levels for existing employees. The Governor's Office is countering this effort with a ["Save Our State"](#) campaign. The IML is joining municipal leaders and organizations around the state to push for the inclusion of municipal pension funds within a broader pension reform bill. Gambling expansion is once again being discussed as a revenue and jobs generator, and a state budget still needs to be cobbled together and approved for the forthcoming fiscal year. Legislative Leaders desire to resolve these very difficult issues by May 31. There is no doubt that things are about to get epic.

IML TV: The IML has [four videos available](#) with mayors discussing how CPPRT diversions would impact their communities. Mayors Spring (Quincy), Houston (Springfield), Ardis (Peoria), and Eisenhower (Danville) describe the disastrous financial consequences that would befall their communities if CPPRT revenue was reduced or eliminated.

CPPRT: Amendments to divert CPPRT revenue from local governments were [not called for a committee vote](#) on Wednesday, May 16. Local governments must continue to oppose the amendments to [HB 3637](#) (Speaker Madigan, D-Chicago) in anticipation of a possible vote at a later date. The amendments could potentially be called on Tuesday, May 22. The financially devastating amendments have [received considerable media attention](#). **The IML Legislative Team thanks the mayors and other local leaders who came to Springfield on Wednesday prepared to testify against CPPRT diversions. IML OPPOSES**

Responsible Bidder: [SB 2643](#) (Rep. Lilly, D-Chicago) would insert the "responsible bidder" provision of the state's Procurement Code into the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act. The bill was moved to Third Reading, but another amendment has been filed by the sponsor. The amendment requires that contractors include the number of hours worked by minorities and females in their estimate of the total number of straight-time work hours for a project. The amendment does not change the IML's opposition to the "responsible bidder" provision within the bill. The bill would need to be returned to Second Reading for the adoption of the amendment. **IML OPPOSES**

Charitable Solicitations: [SB 3518](#) (Rep. Moffitt, R-Galesburg) requires municipalities and counties to allow charitable solicitation in the roadways if the individuals engaged in the solicitation are police, firefighter, or other public-safety employees. The bill sets certain conditions regarding the groups involved, applications and liability insurance. Obviously, the IML has concerns about public safety and the efficient administration of traffic. But the overriding concern is that this bill would require municipalities to violate the First Amendment by mandating that they give preferential treatment concerning free speech to certain individuals. The resulting constitutional violation could open up communities to civil-rights liability. The bill is presently on Second Reading in the House. **IML OPPOSES**

Debt Collections: [HB 5434](#) (Sen. Haine, D-Alton) sets additional requirements for collecting a debt after a civil judgment has been entered. This bill, as originally drafted, would have interfered with the ability of municipalities to collect fines for ordinance violations. This would have made it more difficult for municipalities to enforce their ordinances. The IML was able to negotiate an amendment with the bill's sponsor and with the Attorney General's Office that exempts municipal ordinance prosecution judgments from the new requirements. The amendment passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously and is presently on Third Reading in the Senate.

Minimum Wage: [SB 1565](#) (Sen. Lightford, D-Westchester) would increase the minimum wage to \$10.55 per hour by 2015 and then index it to CPI for subsequent years. The Illinois minimum wage is currently \$8.25 per hour. The bill was approved in the Senate Executive Committee by a vote of 9-5 and is presently on Second Reading in the Senate. The sponsor desires for negotiations to continue with business interests. Few believe that the bill will be approved by both chambers.

Ham Radio Antennas: [HB 1390](#) (Sen. Luechtefeld, R-Okawville) places restrictions on how municipalities regulate ham radio antennas. The bill requires that local ordinances include language that has a reasonable and clearly defined aesthetic, public health or safety objective and represents the minimum practical regulation necessary to accommodate ham radio operators. These restrictions are similar to current restrictions found in Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules. According to bill proponents, the FCC rules supersede more restrictive local ordinances. The IML believes the legislation to be unnecessary considering that the FCC rules already establish how a municipality may regulate ham radio antennas. The bill is presently on Second Reading in the Senate. **IML OPPOSES**